


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: September 26, 2005

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution approving the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds to acquire an approximately 80-acre property (APN 2848-011-005) in Placerita Canyon, unincorporated Los Angeles County.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution approving the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to use Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds in an amount not to exceed \$273,000 to acquire an approximately 80-acre property (APN 2848-011-005) in Placerita Canyon.

Legislative Authority: Section 33211 of Public Resources Code.

Background: Last month the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) made a request of the Conservancy to contribute Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds to acquire a significant property that abuts Placerita Canyon State Park (operated by the County), the Angeles National Forest, and City of Santa Clarita open space. The subject 80-acre property (APN 2848-011-005) is part of one of the highest ranked projects on the Conservancy's Workprogram – Placerita Canyon Northern Expansion. This project ranked fourteenth over all, and it is now sixth over all because eight of the top fourteen projects have been fully acquired. The attached map failed to show that the property immediately north and south of the subject 80 acres is owned by the Forest Service.

The total acquisition cost for the project is \$1.7 million. The Department has already secured funding from the following four other sources to acquire the property: Riparian and Riverine Habitat funds, Habitat Conservation Funds, Park-In-Lieu Fees and County Proposition A funds. The Departments request is for \$271,392 of Big Five Excess Funds.

Proposition A Big Five Excess Funds are made equally available to each supervisorial district approximately every two years. The amounts vary. Per the language of Proposition A, the funds can only be spent with the concurrence of both the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Board of Supervisors. The subject property is a high priority acquisition in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor.